

Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 ACDA-10 IO-13 SAM-01 SSM-05 SAB-01 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /083 W
----- 073951

O 091300Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3424

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TUNIS 4845

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN FONMIN ATTACKS LEBANESE RIGHTISTS IN HIS
RETURN TO TUNIS

1. HABIB CHATTY, TUNISIAN FONMIN AND MEMBER OF THE ARAB
LEAGUE TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH MEDIATING THE
LEBANESE CRISIS, RETURNED TO TUNIS FROM BEIRUT AND HELD A
PRESS CONFERENCE COVERED IN THE JULY 9 TUNIS PRESS ON THE
FAILURE OF THE COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS.

2. CHATTY DESCRIBED HIS MISSION AS "TRULY PAINFUL" AND
TERMED ITS RESULTS "FEEBLE." THE TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE WAS
SENT TO ACHIEVE AND SUPERVISE A CEASEFIRE AND TO LAY THE
GROUNDWORK FOR TALKS BETWEEN THE CONFLICTING PARTIES. CHATTY
DEALT WITH THE COMMITTEE'S FAILURE TO ACCOMPLISH THESE
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GOALS, ALYING THE BLAOE SQUARELY ON THE RIGHT WING FORCES.

3. CHATTY CLAIMED THAT THE RIGHT WING HAD AGREED TO A CEASEFIRE IN A MEETING THE COMMITTEE HELD IN DAMASCUS WITH LEBANESE RIGHTIST LEADERS PRESIDENT FRANGIEH, PIERRE GEMAYEL AND CAMILLE CHAMOUN. THIS CEASEFIRE WAS TO GO INTO EFFECT AT 0000 HOURS, JULY 3. ACCORDING TO CHATTY THE RIGHTISTS IMPOSED TWO CONDITIONS FOR OHEIR CONSENT TO THE CEASEFIRE. THE PLO AHD TO RESPECT THE CAIRO AGREEMENT REGULATING THEIR PRESENT (#) ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON (#)

AND CAPABLE OF INTERVENING AT EVERY VIOLATION OF THE CEASEFIRE BY ANY SIDE. CHATTY SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE OBTAINED GUARANTEES FOR THE LEAGUE REGARDING THE CAPABILITIES OF THE SECURITY FORCE AND PLEDGES THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD RESPECT THE CAIRO ACCORDS. THE LEFTISTS AND THE PALESTINIANS ACCEPTED THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT.

4. HOWEVER, WHEN THE COMMITTEE ARRIVED IN BEIRUT, CHATTY SAID THE COMMITTEE FOUND THE FIGHTING CONTINUING WITH THE SAME INTENSITY. BUT WHEN THE COMMITTEE SET UP MEETINGS TO TRY TO GET THE CEASEFIRE GOING, THE RIGHTISTS REFUSED TO COOPERATE. ON JULY 4 THE RIGHTISTS SENT A LOW-RANKING MESSENGER WITHOUT AUTHORITY TO MEET THE PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST DELEGATIONS AND DID NOT ATTEND THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING ON JULY 5, CLAIMING THAT FIGHTING ON (#)

FRONT
PROHIBITED THEIR ATTENDANCE. CHATTY DESCRIBED THIS EXCUSE AS AN "EVASION."

5. BECAUSE OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE RIGHT, CHATTY SAID HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ACCORD:
"I HAD WANTED NOT TO MAKE THIS DECLARATION SO AS NOT TO AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION.....BUT I CONSIDER THAT MORALLY AND POLITICALLY IT IS MY DUTY NOT TO LET ANY DOUBT HANG OVER THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS THE ABSENCE OF GOODWILL FROM THE RIGHT WHICH CAUSED THE FAILURE OF THE APPLICATION OF THE CEASEFIRE." HE SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE RIGHT WAS SEEKING A
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MILITARY VICTORY IN ORDER TO IMPOSE ITS CONDITIONS; A PARTITION OF THE COUNTRY INTO A CHRISTIAN LEBANON AND A LEBANON FOR THE LEFT AND PALESTINIANS.
MULCAHY

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) OMISSION CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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